

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown - Cheatham Annex

EPA Region 3
Virginia

EPA ID# VA3170024605

Last Update: May 2000

Williamsburg
York County

1st Congressional District

Other Names:
Cheatham Annex

Current Site Status

An EPA site inspection (SI) was completed at a portion of the Penniman Shell Loading Plant site in 1999. The EPA SI identified sources that were formerly part of the overall Penniman Shell Loading Plant. Four of these sources have been included in the NPL proposal of the Cheatham Annex facility. The Naval Weapons Station Yorktown – Cheatham Annex Facility (Cheatham Annex) was proposed to the NPL on February 4, 2000.

Site Description

The Naval Weapons Station Yorktown – Cheatham Annex Facility (Cheatham Annex) is a 1,579-acre federal facility located outside of Williamsburg, in York County, Virginia. The facility is located adjacent to the York River approximately 15-miles upstream of the Cheasapeake Bay. The primary mission of Cheatham Annex is

receiving, storing, packing and shipping of materials to federal facilities on the east coast and major distribution centers in Europe. Construction on the supply facility began in 1942. Cheatham Annex was commissioned in June 1943 as a satellite unit of the Naval Supply Depot in Norfolk, Virginia to provide bulk storage facilities in the Tidewater, Virginia area. The mission of Cheatham Annex has remained essentially the same since its commissioning.

During World War I, prior to Navy ownership and activity, a portion of the current Navy property was the location of a large powder and shell-loading plant operated by DuPont. During this time the area included a city of 10,000 people and was named Penniman. The DuPont plant operated for approximately three years, closing at the end of World War I. Between 1922 and 1942 the land was in private ownership and was used for farming or left idle.

An Initial Assessment Study (IAS) by the Navy was completed at Cheatham Annex in 1984. This study identified twelve disposal sites and potential contamination areas. Four of the twelve sites were recommended for additional studies. Three of these sites (identified as sites 1, 9, and 11 in the IA) are included as sources areas in the NPL proposal of the Cheatham Annex facility. An EPA site inspection (SI) was completed at a portion of the Penniman Shell Loading Plant site in 1999. The EPA SI identified sources that were formerly part of the overall DuPont plant. Four of these sources have been included in the NPL proposal of the Cheatham Annex facility.

Site Responsibility

The Cheatham Annex facility is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL Listing History

This site was proposed as an NPL site on February 4, 2000.

Threats and Contaminants

The sampling results collected from the seven sources currently identified at the facility indicate contamination with semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), explosives, and metals. The sources are not fully contained therefore the contaminants may be available to migrate into adjacent surface waters. Cheatham Annex is located in an area with recreational fisheries. The only fishery sampled to date is

Penniman Lake. The sample results indicate that a release of SVOCs and metals has occurred to this fishery. The other potential fisheries affected by onsite sources have not been sampled to date therefore the impact of contaminant migration into these surface waters is unknown at this time.

Cleanup Progress

Contacts

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